

PSYC 101

Introduction to Psychology

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

Description

PSYC 101 – Introduction to Psychology: surveys the science of psychology and the application of critical thinking skills. Topics include research methods, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, motivation and emotion, language, lifespan development, intelligence, stress and health, social behavior, personality, and abnormal behavior and its treatment. Applications of psychology in a culturally diverse world are also discussed.

Pre-requisites: ACLT 052 or ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. define the fundamental concepts associated with each of the course's major topics;
2. identify the advantages and disadvantages of the various research methods used to study animal and human behavior and mental processes;
3. compare methods of quantitative data used in research;
4. apply major theoretical perspectives with data derived from psychological research;
5. evaluate the authenticity, timeliness, relevance, and validity of psychological information found in print, online resources, film, television, radio, and other resources;
6. explain the ethical considerations that govern psychological research with humans and animals;
7. find, evaluate, use, and cite research pertaining to psychology topics;
8. explain how psychological data and theories have continually evolved and why study of these topics requires lifelong learning;
9. evaluate the role of diversity, including religion, race, class, gender, and ethnicity, in the formation of behaviors, attitudes, and perceptions; and
10. explain how psychology relates to different disciplines and career paths, including their own.

Major Topics

- I. The evolution of modern psychology
- II. Research methods and ethical issues in psychology
- III. The sub-fields of psychology

- IV. Biological bases of behavior and mental processes
- V. Sensation and perception
- VI. States of consciousness
- VII. Basic principles of learning
- VIII. Memory
- IX. Cognition, language, and intelligence
- X. Human development
- XI. Motivation and emotion
- XII. Personality theories and assessment
- XIII. Stress: causes, effects, and control
- XIV. Psychological disorders: nature and causes
- XV. Prevention and treatment of mental disorders
- XVI. Social psychology
- XVII. The nature of cultural and gender diversity in the human experience

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- Three exams
- Two written assignments involving critical thinking
- Completion of a High Impact Practice (HIP) activity

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved 3–credit General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences. One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes.

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